

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, EGEN
SUBJ: PUBLIC SECTOR CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS LAW MOVES
- THROUGH PA

REF: (A) CAIRO 6493,

1. PA MANPOWER COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS DRAFT LAW, ACCORDING TO PRESS. IN ITS ORIGINAL VERSION, DRAFT LAW PROPOSED WAGE INCREASE RANGING FROM 33 PER CENT IN LOWEST PAY CATEGORIES TO 22 PER CENT IN MIDDLE RANGE AND TEN PER CENT IN HIGHER PAY GRADES. ORIGINAL DRAFT LAW ALSO CALLED FOR MERIT PROMOTION SCHEME, DEEMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND INCREASED LATITUDE OF BOARD CHAIRMEN OF PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES TO FIRE INEFFICIENT WORKERS. THESE MUCH PUBLICIZED INCENTIVE MEASURES HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT WEAKENED IN COMMITTEE.

2. MANPOWER COMMITTEE HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO COMPLETE DEBATE AND SEND DRAFT LAW TO FULL SESSION OF PA MAY 13. MAY 8 DEBATE FOCUSED ON TWO LAST-MINUTE GOVERNMENT PRO-
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POSALS GRANTING LE 30 TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED WORKERS FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES AND GUARANTEEING SENIORITY AND FINANCIAL PRIVILEGES TO WORKERS WITH "ADVANCED LEVEL" QUALIFICATIONS. STRINGENT DISMISSAL PROCEDURES LIMITING CHAIRMAN'S ABILITY TO FIRE WORKERS ALSO INTRODUCED. MEASURES WERE QUICKLY PASSED BY COMMITTEE, BUT GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO AGREE TO COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO RAISE WAGE

INCREASE LOWER INCOME WORKERS EVEN FURTHER. DEBATE ON
PAY RAISE TO RESUME MAY 10, WHICH MAY DELAY BILL'S SUB-
MISSION TO FULL PA.

3. COMMENT: PUBLIC SECTOR DRAFT LAW ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED
TO PA MANPOWER COMMITTEE BY CABINET MARCH 13. ITS PROGRESS
THROUGH THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN STEADY IF NOT SPECTACULAR.
MUCH PUBLICIZED INCENTIVE MEASURES OF ORIGINAL DRAFT LAW
HAD ROUGH GOING IN COMMITTEE AND ARE LIKELY TO BE FURTHER
WEAKENED IN FULL PA DEBATE. NOT SURPRISINGLY,
POLITICALLY-IMPORTANT ASPECT OF WAGE INCREASES, HOWEVER,
RETAINS PA'S FULL SUPPORT. EILTS

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